



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Lelah Campo, President
Associated Builders and Contractors of CT, Inc.

Before The Labor Committee - March 8, 2007

Re: **OPPOSED - HB 7319 An Act Concerning Connecticut Jobs For Connecticut Projects**

The Associated Builders and Contractors of CT (CT ABC) is **STRONGLY** opposed to HB 7319 - **An Act Concerning Connecticut Jobs For Connecticut Projects**.

This bill contains no language that would assure that there would be more job opportunities for Connecticut workers. What it does is open the door to private business having to pay union scale (prevailing wage) on the construction of any new buildings or expansions.

Connecticut is losing business and industry - to other states and other countries who actively recruit, welcome and support business. Other states recognize that when a business moves in new jobs and opportunities are created. Those states have developed economic development strategies that provide strong tax credits and incentives to encourage business growth.

Connecticut is already one of the most difficult and expensive states for a business to be located in. Now, proposals like HB 7319 could saddle these highly sought after businesses with union scale wages for their construction and expansion. As it stands now - those forced to comply with Prevailing Wage - our town and cities - are groaning under the burden of the increased fees and difficult paperwork. Do you really believe private business will choose to build here and comply with these regulations when they could locate in any other state and not have to?

We must learn from all the jobs that our state has lost. In our highly advanced and technological world, businesses can and do choose locations with favorable business climates. Less and less of them are choosing Connecticut.

We can pass many "feel-good" laws to provide for favorable opportunities for our workforce, but if there are no businesses there will be NO opportunities for workers!

Forcing private business to build under the cumbersome and costly prevailing wage standards is just wrong. Wrong for business and in the end - wrong for employees.

We urge you to say NO to HB 7319 - Help us keep and attract NEW jobs and business to Connecticut.